Baramati to Lonand via Phaltan (approximate length-54.164 kms.) has been recently completed by Central Railway.

(c) The survey report is under examination. Further action will be considered after examination of the survey report.

Capacity of Nileshwar Goods Shed

1834. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway Palghat Division has increased the placement capacity of Nileshwar Goods Shed of F.C.I, to accommodate a full rake of 55 wagons from the present 35 wagons.

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the porters of the Nileshwar Goods Shed of F.C.I. have opposed this decision and they have represented against this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The capacity has been increased from 35 to 55 wagons to handle increased traffic.

(c) Labour Society engaged by F.C.I. has filed a case in High Court of Kerala against handling of additional wagons and the matter is sub-judice.

Proposal for setting up of new Division In Western Railways

1835. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for opening new Division in Western Railways have been received by Government so far;

(b) how many of them have been accepted;

(c) what are the criteria adopted in acceptance of these proposals;

(d) the reasons for not opening a new Railway Division at Ahmedabad/ Gandhinagar; and

(e) whether Central Government accepts in principle the request of Government of Gujarat for opening a new Railway Division at Ahmedabad or Gandhinagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Government have received suggestions/proposals for the opening of new Divisions at Ahmedabad/ Gandhinagar and Surat on Western Railway.

(b) to (e) New Railway Divisions are set-up taking into consideration the size, workload, growth and pattern of traffic and other operational and administrative requirements of the Railways consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. Prevailing financial constraints have, for the present, precluded the possibility of going in for any new Division on the Railways.

पुरुषोत्तम-एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ी द्वारा बोकारो स्टील सिटी और टाटानगर को जोड़ना

1836. श्री गया सिंह: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली और पुरी के मध्य चलने वाली "पुरुषोत्तम एक्सप्रेस" द्वारा बोकारो स्टील सिटी तथा टाटानगर को जोड़ने में क्या कठिनाईयां हैं;

(ख) क्या उक्त ट्रेन को तीन दिन वर्तमान रूट से और तीन दिन प्रस्तावित वाराणसी बोकारो-टाटानगर रूट से चलाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो प्रस्तावित परिवर्तन के कब तक प्रवृत्त होने की संभावना है; और

(घ) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "नहीं" है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के॰ सी॰ लेंका): (क) पुरुषोत्तम एक्सप्रेस एक सुपरफास्ट गाड़ी है और भुवनेश्वर और दिल्ली के बीच तीव्र गाड़ी सेवा सुलभ करती है। इस गाड़ी को बोकारो स्टील सिटी के

रास्ते चलाने से यात्रा समय बढ़ जाएगा।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) परिचालनिक कठिनाइयां और संसाधनों की तंगी।

हावड़ा-दिल्ली राजधानी एक्सप्रेस

1837. श्री गया सिंह: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) हावड़ा-दिल्ली राजधानी एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ी को कम से कम सप्ताह में एक दिन अर्थात् रविवार को हावड़ा से और शुक्रवार को दिल्ली से बरास्ता पटना न चलाए जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) इसके सप्ताह में एक दिन बरास्ता पटना कब तक चलाए जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका): (क) राजधानी एक्सप्रेस पहले ही से सप्ताह में 2 दिन पटना के रास्ते नयी दिल्ली और हावड़ा के बीच चल रही है। 2305/2306 राजधानी एक्सप्रेस को रविवार को हावड़ा से और शुक्रवार को नई दिल्ली से चलाने से उक्त दो दिन गया के रास्ते जाने वाली राजधानी एक्सप्रेस के वर्तमान उपयोगकर्ता प्रभावित होंगे।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Illegal occupations/unutilization of Railway Land

1838. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated areas of railway land which is under illegal occupation/unutilised;

(b) whether there is any proposal with Government to exploit the Railway land commercially; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken so far by Government to get the encroachment on the land vacated and the manner in which the land is proposed to be commercially utilised stating the estimated revenue that might accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Railway land measuring about 1768 hectare is under encroachment and about 60,000 hectare, presently unutilized, is for Railways future developmental programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways proposal for commercial utilization is restricted to the development of air space over the Railway property. An accurate assessment of the likely revenue can be done only after the Government's decision on Railways proposal. For removal of encroachments action is taken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971 on a continuous basis.

Repair work on National Highway No. 31

1838. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway No. 31 between Barama and Nalbari in Assam is in a very bad condition and the portion seriously damaged by the recent flood water is causing inconvenience to the vehicular traffic; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to repair the said portion of the National Highway No. 31 in 'the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Immediate repair work of damages to the said road portion caused due to floods this year has already been taken up by the State Government.